

[28 November 2001] RAJYA SABHA

to increase in the power tariff due to which the very purpose of the decision will be defeated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) As per provisions of Section 43A(c) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, a generating company can sell power to any person with the approval of the Government or Governments concerned.

The Electricity Bill 2001 as introduced in Lok Sabha in August 2001, empowers the State electricity Regulatory Commission to allow open access in distribution in phases after cross subsidies are eliminated. It also provides that such open access may be allowed before cross subsidies are eliminated on payment of surcharge in addition to the charges for wheeling as may be determined by the State Commission. Such surcharge will be utilized to meet the requirement of current level of cross subsidy.

Work Progress of Nimo-Basgo Hydrel Power Project in Leh

1156. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of current status and work progress of Nimo-Basgo Hydrel Project in Leh district under taken by NHPC;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering connecting Ladakh region of Leh and Kargil district with Northern Grid;

(c) whether the Ministry received any request for the same from the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Nimo Basgo Hydroelectric Project in Leh with an installed capacity of 25 MW was entrusted to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for execution in the Central Sector, in July 2000, after an MOU was signed between the Ministry of Power and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for development of hydro projects in the State.

The Detailed Project Report on the Nimo Bazgo Hydro-electric Project was prepared by the Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation. The cost of energy generation based on the Detailed Project Report submitted to the central Electricity Authority was very high. The Central Electricity Authority had requested the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation to explore alternate proposals based on detailed desk studies to reduce the cost of the project and the sale rate of energy as the layout of the project was not optimal and the cost of the project too high. NHPC thereafter identified another site, fifteen and half kilometers down-stream of the originally proposed site.;

A joint team of officers from the Central Electricity Authority, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, Power Grid Corporation and Jammu & Kashmir, Power Development Corporation visited this site from the 7th to 11th November, 2001. National Hydro-electric Power Corporation is carrying out geological investigations.

(b) to (d) CEA in consultation with POWERGRID and Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department is examining various options, including the feasibility of constructing a transmission line connecting the districts of Leh and Kargil in Ladakh with the Northern Grid for ensuring power supply to the region. The State Government has also made a request to Ministry of Power for approval to construct a transmission line from Srinagar to Kargil and Leh in the central sector.

Establishing Hydro Electric Plants in States

† 1157. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to establish Hydro electric Plants in various States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.